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Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy
Third session
Geneva, 9 and 10 July 2018
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

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II. Annotations

Item 1
Election of officers

1. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-Cum-Rapporteur.

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Item 2
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts may wish to adopt the provisional agenda reproduced in chapter I above.

3. It is proposed that the opening plenary meeting of the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, which will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 9 July 2018, be devoted to procedural matters (agenda items 1 and 2) and introductory statements. The closing plenary meeting, on Tuesday, 10 July 2018, will be devoted to the adoption of the provisional agenda of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/10), to be held in July 2019, and to the adoption of the report of the third session (items 4 and 5). In view of the short duration of the session, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur will be authorized to complete the final report after the conclusion of the session. The remaining meetings, from 9 July to the afternoon of 10 July, can be devoted to the substantive issues under item 3 (see annex). If necessary, the adoption of the report may be postponed until the late afternoon of 10 July, to allow for an informal working session to be held that afternoon.

Documentation

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Item 3

4. On 22 December 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/186 on consumer protection, including the revised United Nations guidelines for consumer protection and the decision to establish the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy. In accordance with the provisional agenda adopted by the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/9), the third session is invited to consider discussing the following issues related to the implementation of the guidelines:

(a) Consumer protection in financial services

(b) Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection law and policy

(c) Voluntary peer review of the consumer protection law and policy of Morocco

(d) Dispute resolution and redress

(e) Report of the working groups on electronic commerce and on the protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers, as well as on the latest developments in legal and institutional frameworks

(f) Consumer product safety

5. According to resolution 70/186, consumer confidence and trust in a well-functioning market for financial services promotes financial stability, growth, efficiency and innovation over the long term, and the recent financial crisis places a renewed focus on consumer protection, calling for effective regulatory, supervisory and enforcement frameworks in the financial sector to contribute to the welfare of consumers. According to guideline 97 (a), the Intergovernmental Group of Experts shall provide a forum and modalities for consultations, discussions and exchanges of views between Member States on matters related to, among others, the protection of consumers of financial services, in particular in implementing section V.J on such services.

6. According to guideline 97 (e), the Intergovernmental Group of Experts shall provide capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in formulating and enforcing consumer protection laws and policies. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to identify practical ways to

guide the secretariat in its future work, for improved capacity-building activities for interested consumer protection agencies in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. To facilitate this exercise, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will have considered the note entitled "Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on competition and consumer protection law and policy" (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/14).

7. According to guideline 97 (c), the Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to conduct voluntary peer reviews of national consumer protection laws and policies. In accordance with the provisional agenda adopted by the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, the third session will consider the peer review of the consumer protection law and policy of Morocco. The report of the peer review will be made available and, to facilitate discussion, an overview will be made available in all languages (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/13; UNCTAD/DITC/CPLP/2018/1).

8. The second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts requested the UNCTAD secretariat to prepare reports and studies, taking into account input from member States and other relevant stakeholders, on dispute resolution and redress and on consumer product safety. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to identify practical ways to address consumer protection concerns in these areas and to provide guidance to the secretariat on its future work. To facilitate this exercise, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will have considered the notes entitled "Dispute resolution and redress" (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/11) and "Consumer product safety" (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/12) and heard contributions from experts and international and regional actors, as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society.

9. The second session also requested the UNCTAD secretariat to convene two working groups, one on electronic commerce, taking into account ongoing work at UNCTAD, and one on the protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers, in order to highlight best practices, to facilitate information exchanges and consultations, to continue work from the second session, led and integrated by member States on a voluntary basis, without financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations, and to report to the third session. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts is expected to decide on future work, following consideration of the UNCTAD secretariat report on these working groups, and to consider the UNCTAD secretariat report on the latest developments in legal and institutional frameworks, in particular the world consumer protection map.

10. Experts are invited to make oral presentations supported by short written papers on the subjects referred to above. The papers will be made available online during the session. Should countries wish to hold consultations on other subjects, they are invited to inform the secretariat of the subject by no later than 18 May 2018, to enable all participants to prepare for the consultations.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/CPLP/11	Dispute resolution and redress
TD/B/C.I/CPLP/12	Consumer product safety
TD/B/C.I/CPLP/13	Voluntary peer review of the consumer protection law and policy of Morocco
TD/B/C.I/CPLP/14	Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on competition and consumer protection law and policy
UNCTAD/DITC/CPLP/2018/1	*Voluntary Peer Review of Consumer Protection Law and Policy: Morocco*

Item 4
Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy

11. Acting in its capacity as the preparatory body for the fourth session, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts it is expected to agree on the provisional agenda for its next session, which should come out of the discussions under agenda item 3.

Item 5
Adoption of the report of the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy

12. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts will adopt its report to the Trade and Development Commission.

Experts are requested to advise of their intention to submit papers and contributions to the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible before Friday, 18 May 2018. Written papers and contributions must be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat by Friday, 1 June 2018.

For further information, please contact Mr. Arnau Izaguerri, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD (email: arnau.izaguerri@unctad.org).

Annex

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, third session, 9 and 10 July 2018: Provisional programme

	Monday, 9 July 2018	*Tuesday, 10 July 2018*
	Palais des Nations, building E, room XVII	
10–11 a.m.	**Opening plenary**	**Round table** Dispute resolution and redress
11–11.30 a.m.	**Keynote speech** Contribution of consumer protection to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (Mr. Sothi Rachagan, Nilai University, Malaysia)	
11.30 a.m.–12 p.m.	**Round table** Consumer protection in financial services	
12–1 p.m.		**UNCTAD secretariat presentation** Report of working groups on electronic commerce and protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers World consumer protection map *Manual on Consumer Protection* Virtual repository of good practices
3–3.30 p.m.	**UNCTAD secretariat presentation** Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection law and policy	**Round table** Consumer product safety
3.30–4.30 p.m.	**Voluntary peer review of the consumer protection law and policy of Morocco**	
4.30–6 p.m.		**Closing plenary** Agreed conclusions Provisional agenda for fourth session Adoption of report